

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 EUR-25 IO-13 RSR-01 /142 W

----- 050271

R 100044Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5761

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14439

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS MILI VNVS ID

SUBJECT: PRG LUNCHEON FOR THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION

THE FOLLOWING SENT SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL DANANG 8 AUG 73

REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 0999

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINS MILI VNVS ID

SUBJECT: PRG LUNCHEON FOR THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION

1. ARRO, HUE, REPORTS THAT THE PRG GAVE A LUNCHEON FOR DEPARTING INDONESIAN DELEGATION OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, COLONEL DEDY KARSANO, ON AUGUST 6 AT GIO LINH. ACCORDING TO THE JMC RVN DEL CHIEF, COLONEL HA NGOC TAM, THESE FRIENDLY MEETINGS BETWEEN THE INDONESIANS AND THE PRG (OF WHICH THIS WAS THE SECOND IN A WEEK) ARE BECOMING A CAUSE FOR CONCERN. DEPUTY CG, LE GEN LAM QUANG THI, HAS ORDERED COLONEL TAM TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS BLOSSOMING RELATIONSHIP AND WHETHER THESE MAY BE DIRE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE RVN. MEANWHILE, TAM HAS BEEN ORDERED TO REDOUBLE JMC EFFORTS TO "ASSIST" THE INDONESIANS IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE AND TO AVOID EXPRESSING ANY DISPLEASURE ABOUT THE VISITS. COLONEL TAM COMMENTED

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THAT THESE CONTACTS MAY BE HARMLESS AND ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE, BUT

THE RVN, HAVING LOST ITS ONLY OTHER FRIEND ON THE ICCS, MUST BE EXTREMELY WATCHFUL FOR ANY SIGNS THAT THE PRG MIGHT BE SUCCESSFULLY WOOGING THE INDODEL. THE RVN KNOWS THE FOREIGN POLICY STANCE OF INDONESIA BUT COLONEL TAM IS AFRAID THAT IN PERSONAL CONTACTS INDIVIDUALS MIGHT BE SWAYED THE WRONG WAY AND CAUSE FUTURE PROBLEMS FOR THE RVN.

2. COLONEL KARSANO LOANED THE ARRO A TAPE HE HAD RECORDED OF THE LUNCHEON CONVERSATION. IT IS APPARENT THAT KARSANO MEASURED HIS WORDS CAREFULLY, STRESSING THAT HE WANTED TO TREAT BOTH THE RVN AND THE PRG WITH EQUAL FAIRNESS. HE COMMENTED TO THE PRG THAT THIS POLICY SEEMED TO CAUSE SOME MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND THE CANADIANS WHO "WONDERED WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO THE INDONESIANS". KARSANO STATED THE POLICY OF THE INDODEL IS TO SEEK COMPROMISE, TO CARRY OUT THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AND TO ESTABLISH PEACE BY MAKING THE ICCS MORE ACTIVE IN ITS CONTACTS WITH BOTH SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES. KARSANO EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT HIS INVITATION TO THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS TO JOIN THE LUNCHEON HAD BEEN REFUSED. THE PRG SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS THEY WISHED TO GIVE THE INDONESIANS MORE FREEDOM TO EXPRESS THEIR POINT OF VIEW.

3. THE PRG USED THE OCCASION TO PRAISE THE INDONESIANS WHO DO "THE MOST OF ANY DELEGATION IN REGION I TO IMPLEMENT THE PEACE AGREEMENT" AND TO CHASTISE THE CANADIANS FOR ABANDONING THE ICCS AND FAILING TO MAINTAIN NEUTRALITY OR OBJECTIVITY. THE PRG ALSO CRITICIZED THE RVN FOR FAILURE TO COOPERATE ON THE ISSUE OF CLEARING THE THACH HAN RIVER OF POSSIBLE EXPLOSIVE DEVICES. THEY HOPED THAT THE NEW RVN DELEGATION CHIEF OF REGION I WOULD COOPERATE TO SETTLE THIS ISSUE.

4. COMMENT: IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE ABSENCE OF THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS WAS ARRANGED BY THE PRG BEFOREHAND NOT ONLY TO ENCOURAGE GREATER FRANKNESS BY THE INDONESIANS BUT ALSO TO PERMIT THE PRG TO CONCENTRATE ITS FLATTERY WHERE IT WOULD DO THE MOST GOOD. IT DOES NOT APPEAR FROM THIS EPISODE, HOWEVER, THAT THE RVN YET HAS REAL CAUSE TO FEAR THAT THE INDONESIANS WILL BE TAKEN IN.
POPPLE UNQUOTE
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON14439
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MARTIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730845/aaaabvg.vtg
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRG LUNCHEON FOR THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION THE FOLLOWING SENT SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL DANANG 8 AUG 73
TAGS: PINS, MILI, VS, ID, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005